

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DACCA 01058 011601Z

42 S

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-07 PM-04 /040 W

----- 073767

R 010930Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9849

S E C R E T DACCA 1058

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MILI, BG, IN, US

SUBJ: BANGLADESH MILITARY MATTERS

REFS: STATE 029770

DACCA 1022

DACCA 0951

1. DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ADMIRAL KHAN ASKED ME FRIDAY NIGHT IF POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD TOLD ME OF THEIR CONVERSATION LAST WEEK IN WHICH HE HAD INQUIRED WHETHER HIS CONTEMPLATED VISIT TO U.S. TO ATTEND JULY 4 NAVAL REVIEW MIGHT BE GIVEN MORE SUBSTANCE THROUGH ACQUISITION OF NAVY EQUIPMENT FOR BANGLADESH. I SAID THAT HE HAD. ADMIRAL KHAN WENT ON TO EXPOUND THEMES, WHICH WE HAVE HEARD HERE BEFORE, THAT NEW FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE TRAINING AND MORALE OF THE BANGLADESH ARMED SERVICES. NOTING THAT "A SAILOR IS NOTHING WITHOUT A SHIP", HE STRESSED NEED FOR COASTAL VESSELS AS ONE EXAMPLE. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS GENERAL SUBJECT HAD COME UP FOR US SEVERAL TIMES NOW AND THAT WE HAD CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON THE REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS WE HAD RECEIVED, INCLUDING HIS OWN OF LAST WEEK. I WOULD BE FRANK TO DAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A DISINCLINATION TO GET INTO THE MILITARY SUPPLY AREA. I SAID WE HAD DELIVERATELY CHOSEN TO CONCENTRATE OUR ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN AREAS OF FOOD AND FAMILY PLANNING, AREAS WHICH WERE CRUCIAL FOR BANGLADESH AND ALSO AREAS WHERE WE THOUGHT WE COULD BE OF THE MOST ASSISTANCE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DACCA 01058 011601Z

ADMIRAL KHAN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT THOUGHT THERE

WAS ALSO A NEED FOR BALANCE, EXPLAINING THAT THE MORALE OF THE BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR WHICH ALSO DESERVED ATTENTION. (AIR VICE-MARSHAL TAWAB, INCIDENTALLY, DID NOT RAISE WITH ME, AS HE HAD EARLIER THAT HE WOULD, THE QUESTION OF USG FINANCING FOR BDG PURCHASE OF CHINOOK HELICOPTERS FROM BOEING.)

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL ZIA, I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD TAKEN A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN OUR EMBASSY BUT THAT, BECAUSE OF MONEY PROBLEMS, THE TIMING HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED AND IT WOULD PROBABLY BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED. GENERAL ZIA SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THIS AS IT WAS A VERY GOOD SIGNAL. HE ASKED ME IF I COULD NOTIFY THEM OF THIS ACTION MORE FORMALLY. I SAID I DOUBTED THIS WAS NECESSARY AND THAT MY UNDERSTANDING WITH WASHINGTON WAS THAT I WOULD SIMPLY LET HIM KNOW OF THIS DECISION.

3. GENERAL ZIA, IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM, SAID THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SAMAR SEN, WHO LEFT LAST WEEK OSTENSIBLY FOR CONSULTATION IN NEW DELHI, WOULD RETURN TO DACCA. GENERAL ZIA SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT A NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD BEEN NAMED TO SUCCEED SAMAR SEN; THE NAME SOUNDED TO DCM LIKE G. PARTHASARATHY. HE SAID HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS MILITARY ADVISERS IN THE HIGH COMMISSION AND REPLACE THE BENGALIS ON THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION STAFF WITH NON-BENGALIS. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THIS WOULD AFFECT SAMAR SEN AND DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER DAS. WE HAVE HEARD NO OTHER REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT.

4. THESE CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE DURING INTERMISSION OF SHOWING OF FILM "PATTON" IN MY HOME TO THREE DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS AND OTHER SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS.

5. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SLUGGED STADIS BECUASE SOME OF REFERENCES WERE SO CLASSIFIED. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER WIDER DISTRIBUTION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 DACCA 01058 011601Z

BOSTER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMED FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA01058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0630
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603109/aaaadrwi.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 STATE 29770
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH MILITARY MATTERS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MILI, BG, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006